

The details are as follows:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.N	Name of the Scheme	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
1.	Project Tiger Project Elephant	187.00	397.00	482.00
2.	Development of National	49.70	46.38	45.28
3.	Parks & Sanctuaries	155.00	131.18	274.00
TOTAL:		391.70	574.56	801.28

World Bank assisted project in ICFRE

†1430. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any World Bank sponsored scheme is being implemented in Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education;

(b) if so, the achievements thereof in the field of research and extension of forest area; and

(c) the expected rise in afforestation and productivity per hectare?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun is implementing the World Bank Assisted "Forestry Research, Education and Extension Project" since 1994 for strengthening of India's Forestry Research Systems and extension of Research Technology at a total cost of Rs. 168.065 crores. The total expenditure incurred under the aforesaid Project upto March, 2001 is Rs. 159.65 crore. The activities undertaken/achievements made by ICFRE, Dehradun and its Institutes under FREE Project are given in the Statement. (See below)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) No assessment of the exact effect of the Project in regard to the increase in productivity and expansion of forest cover has been done.

Statement

Details of activities undertaken/achievements made by ICFRE

Important works undertaken/achievements made by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun under the World Bank Aided Forestry Research, Education and Extension (FREE) Project are:

- (i) The National Forestry Research Plan for 20 years prioritising the forestry research in the States and UTs formulated,
- (ii) Thirty five Research Programmes covering tree improvement, biotechnology, seed improvement and silviculture undertaken.
- (iii) Two hundred Research Projects in various disciplines of Forestry and allied sectors sanctioned for Genetic and Tree Improvement as also for the conservation of germplasm.
- (iv) Development and operationalisation of Eight Modules of Management Information System undertaken.
- (v) Implementation of Twenty three Research Projects under Extension Support Fund taken up for reducing the pressures on the natural forests.
- (vi) Programmes for improvement of planting stock through Seed Production Areas (SPA), Clonal Seed Orchards (CSO), Seedling Seed Techniques (SST), Vegetative Multiplication Gardens (VMG) and Improved Nursery Techniques (INT) started for increasing the productivity of forests in the country. The Institute has established 1225.62 ha. of SPA, 166.45 ha. of CSO, 344.40 ha. of SSO and 56.60 ha. of VMG in the country for providing quality planting stock to the user agencies i.e. the States and UTs.
- (vii) Procurement of Research Equipment and providing of Operating Expenses for 31 Research Projects at ICFRE Institutes.

- (viii) Development of National Forestry Data Based Management System and publication of Forestry Statistics India, 2000 etc.
- (ix) Production of nine documentary films on utilization of forest products and conservation of bio-genetic resources as also publication of Monographs on important forestry species, Brochures on the technologies developed by ICFRE and its Institutes for dissemination has been undertaken during the Project.

Karnataka request for commercial release of Bt cotton Seeds

1431. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Karnataka Government has requested the Central Government for early decision on allowing commercial release of Bt cotton seeds, in view of the fact that China, which was making preparation to enter WTO agreement, has commercially cultivated Bt cotton;
- (b) whether it is fact that Department of Bio-technology has shown no reservations for Bt cotton; and
- (c) if so, by when a decision in the matter is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Minister for Agriculture, Karnataka, has requested the Union Ministry of Environment & Forests for according approval for release of Bt cotton by Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company (MAHYCO).

The Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation set up in the Department of Bio-technology under Rule 4 of the Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of hazardous Microorganisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells 1989,